

**The Carolina DX  
Association**

# The Pileup

## Carolina DX Association HAMFEST ISSUE



MARCH, 1991

BILL TAYLOR - KD4IL - EDITOR

### 1991 Charlotte Hamfest and Computerfair

**Ready or not, here it comes!** The 1991 Charlotte Hamfest and Computerfair is speeding down the tracks and headed for a NEW Grand Opening at the Charlotte Merchandise Mart. March 9th and 10th will mark another giant leap in the growth of the show. More space, better parking, more commercial exhibitors, better parking, bigger flea market, better parking, new exciting forums and an on premise cafeteria style restaurant promise to make the Charlotte Hamfest an event to remember. Many of you have asked for more DX, antenna and contest oriented forums. Well, you asked for it, we've got it. Dave Pruett, K8CC will do separate forums on antennas and computer contesting. Will Roberts, AA4NC will provide an exciting and informational look at his participation in the World Radiosport Team Championship held in Seattle last summer. Other forums include DXCC, QSL'ing and even a forum for the VHF'ers in our midst. While you're at the show, don't forget to stop by the CDXA booth at #41 to visit with old friends, make new ones and renew your CDXA membership for 1991.

73 es CU at the show!

Robert, N4QVF  
Dealer Chairman  
Charlotte Hamfest and Computerfair

### *YOU'RE INVITED*

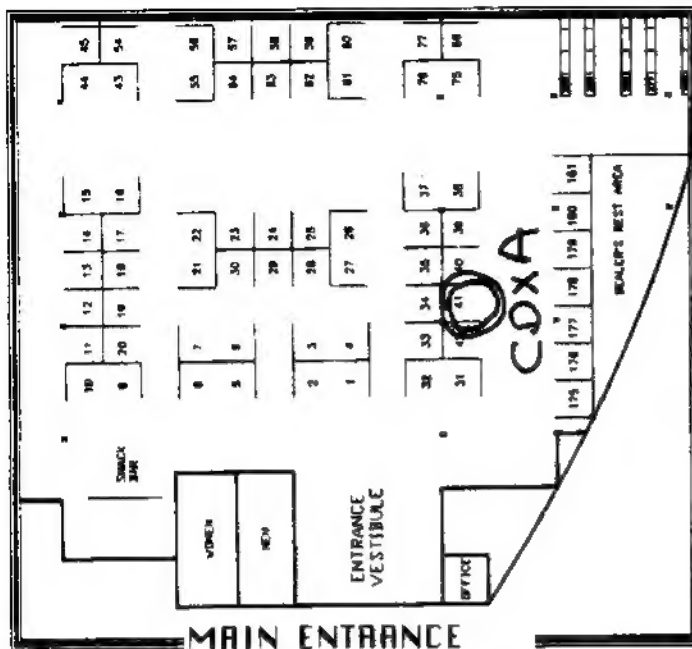
to the Carolina DX Association Hospitality  
Party at **Valentino's Restaurant**  
(CDXA Members and their Guest only)

The Annual HAMFEST get together for the CDXA will be held Saturday night, March 9th, from 7:00pm till ??? at Valentino's Restaurant. Valentino's is located on Independence Blvd, two blocks east of the Hamfest site. If you don't know where the Hamfest is located, it is right next door to the "OLD COLISEUM" at the corner of Independence Blvd and Briarcreek Road. The party is planned as a mix and mingle type cocktail party. A \$10.00 per person DONATION to help defray the costs can be given to either myself or Bill Jennings during the party. There will be PLENTY of hot and cold Hors d'oeuvres. The "snack as you go" buffet includes Swedish meatballs, Italian meatballs, Cheese ravioli with marinara or meat sauce, cold canapes, assorted cheese, fresh fruit and vegetable trays. A fully stocked cash bar will be set up in the room to quench your thirst. No one should have to leave hungry or thirsty. However, for those of you who are looking for a full service sit down type meal, Valentino's main dining area offers great atmosphere, a varied menu and specializes in fine Italian food.

73!

Robert, N4QVF

## CDXA BOOTH LOCATION AT HAMFEST



CDXA will have a booth near the main entrance of the 1991 Hamfest/Computerfair. You are invited to come by and chat or pay your 1991 dues or do both if you want. We should have a really great time this year with plenty of parking and lots of space inside. Your CDXA officers look forward to seeing you. KD4IL

### CDXA MEMBER NOW ARRL DXAC MEMBER

Gary Dixon, K4MQG, in Fort Mill and a long - time CDXA member has been appointed as a member of the ARRL's DX Advisory Committee known as DXAC beginning January 1, 1991. Gary will be the ARRL Roanoke Division member on this committee. The DXAC consist of one voting member from each ARRL Division and there are 19 in the USA, plus ARRL staff members. The DXAC is strictly an advisory committee to the ARRL DXCC and Board of Directors and they play a very important part in DXCC matters such as additions and deletions of countries. Gary's appointment was made by the ARRL Roanoke Division Director John Kanode, N4MM, who is also an avid DXer. Gay

## CDXA Going to VP9 land(Bermuda) for June VHF



On June 5, 1991 until June 11th ... Four operators from the CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION --- AA4SC, K4MQG, AA4R, & WA4VCC -- Will be operating from the island of BERMUDA and will be set up on the west side of the island looking directly back at the US Mainland.

This is GRID SQUARE - FM 72.



The group will be QRV on 6 meters, 2 meters, Oscar 13 and the HF frequencies with emphasis on the WARC bands.

The 6 meter Beacon frequency will be 50.085

The group will be using the call WA4VCC/VP9 during the June 8, 9, 10 VHF contest. All QSL's should be sent to the home calls of the operator you work.



Because of the ARIETID's Meteor Shower, WA4VCC/VP9 will be QRV on 144.190 on the mornings of June 7, & 8 from 1100 to 1230 UTC. WA4VCC/VP9 will be calling CQ on the 2nd and the 4th sequence of each minute. Beam heading will be +/- 300 degrees from FM 72

### WA4VCC

Milnus, W4UG, was the last full time Roanoke Division DXAC member until his death in mid 1990. Then John Parrott, W4FRU, filled the slot for the last few months.-KD4IL

First, I explained my reason for wanting the keyer - strictly computer logged contesting. I was disappointed when I found out it was not designed to interface with the K1EA/K8CC computer keying configurations. "Never mind that" Dirk said, "what if we make you a prototype model of a remote keying device that you could hardwire into the circuit board?" Hmmmmmm! "In the meantime, if you'll fax us a copy of the K1EA/K8CC documentation, we'll start designing a computer interface". Sounded good to me!

Another neat feature is the AUTO-REPEAT function. A variable delay allows you to repeat any message every (n) seconds. Very useful when you have to "TEE TEE" during the contest but don't want to lose your run frequency or when the band is dead and you want to CQ for hours on end. As shipped from the factory you can set it from 5 to 30 seconds delay. I like a faster more aggressive CQ so Dirk instructed me to change R-18 on the circuit board to a 10k resistor, now I have a variation from .4 to 21 seconds. About 2 seconds works good for me.

At \$159.95 the DR-3 is a deal. Keep in mind that the computer and remote keying interfaces are prototypes and are not available.....yet. Dirk and the gang are working frantically to get them into production. Until then he will send you schematics on how to build your own. As you can see they are very responsive to requests and suggestions.

73! Robert. N4GVF

# Read! →

If it says "90" on it, this is the LAST Pileup you .  
will receive.

W4UNR Bill Jennings  
630 Whitepine Drive  
Catawba, SC 29704

## A DOUBLE STANDARD AT OUR ARRL?

The February QST features WA4SIR on the cover touting the STS-35 SAREX Mission as "The Ultimate DXpedition." Oh? Did I miss something here? The accompanying article by Rosalie White states "The ARRL is prepared to accept QSL cards with SASEs for SAREX voice QSOs and nearly 2000 packet attempts from all over the world." Well, as Paul Harvey would say, here is The Rest of the Story.

The so-called voice contacts would hardly pass muster, as the majority of them were via phone patches and commercial satellite links between ersatz "ham stations" and ground terminals in Brazil and Australia. But you may recall that there was a packet "Robot" on board. According to an AMSAT Bulletin by Dr. Tom Clark, W3IWI PhD, a completed exchange required:

- 1. The ground station to send a connect request;
- 2. the SAREX Robot to hear the connect request, send an ACK and a packet frame with a QSO serial number;
- 3. The ground station to ACK the information frame, and;
- 4. The SAREX Robot to hear the ACK, and THEN AND ONLY THEN would the contact be put in the on-board log.

Now, to quote W3IWI, "This protocol was designed to adhere to normally accepted amateur practice: A full QSO requires unknown information

to be transmitted and acknowledged in both directions."

So, the implication of the QST article is that "nearly 2000" contacts were made and the operators will receive QSL cards with the ARRL acting as QSL manager. Not quite. In

fact, there were only 238 QSOs (60 USA) that met the requirements set forth above by Dr. Clark, W3IWI, PhD. The remainder of the "nearly 2000" (the actual number was 1711)

were stations whose calls were merely heard by the Robot (similar to the MHEARD function of a standard TNC) and these call signs were periodically transmitted in a beacon mode. Ground stations had to copy the beacons and these "logs" were sent to the ARRL as "proof" (text editor, anyone?) of the calls that were heard. Stripped of all the hype and hoopla, the bottom line is that if someone can convince the ARRL that the SAREX Robot heard their call, the ARRL will send a QSL card!!!

Look, Mr. Search, here is my ZA card. Yes, I know that it look like K4LKR has been crossed out and N4KTY has been written in, but that is just an Albanian printing defect. Besides, I am SURE that sometime, somewhere a station in Triane has heard m call. After all, I did work ZAIAAA last year - Never got a card but what the heck, I KNEW that he was real. After all, I WANT to work ZA real bad and that ought to count for something, right? Now Don, lets be reasonable here - Think of the aspects of public relations and international good will That is more important than your silly rules and standards — Don? Don? (Fade to Black).

The Grumpy Old Man

David L. Reasoner

Thanks to *Longpath*, the North Alabama DX Club Newsletter

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